

Lesson's Learned

1. Have your two forms (hard copy!) ready for your committee before the presentation.
 - a. Report on PhD exam
 - b. Their evaluation sheet of you
2. Don't over answer! If someone asks you a question, try to think of the simplest response where you can begin explaining concepts first (instead of equations, for example).
3. Along the same lines, don't answer more than you have to at once. Keep it short and to the point or you will find yourself going down an unexpected path.
4. Instead of relying on what you **know**, rely on **thinking** through a problem even if you don't initially know the answer. I often tried to *remember* something instead of just stopping to think through it and it lead to more mistakes being made.
5. **Think about your audience** when making your presentation. Know about your committee member's research interests. If you think they might not know a basic concept in your presentation, add a few slides at the beginning to explain some basics.
6. Make sure you don't unintentionally schedule your qual on a federal holiday. Check the employee schedule instead of the academic schedule online to make sure it isn't anyone's day off.